

## Claims

## 1. An antimicrobial composition comprising

(1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,

(2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and

(3) at least one polymer or copolymer comprising as units

(a) 1 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,

(b) 0 to 99 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,

(c) 0 to 99 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and

(d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

## 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

(a) 5 to 100 %,

(b) 0 to 95 %,

(c) 0 to 75 %, and

(d) 0 to 5 %.

## 3. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

(a) 10 to 60 %,

(b) 20 to 70 %,

(c) 0 to 70 %, and

(d) 0 to 5 %.

## 4. A composition according to claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

## 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein the solvent of the composition comprises water.

6. A composition according to claims 4 and 5, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are
- 5 0,01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,  
0,005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,  
0,005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and  
0,01 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.
7. A composition according to claims 1 to 6, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.
- 10 8. A composition according to claims 4 to 7, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.
- 15 9. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a microbicide.
10. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a preservative.
- 20 11. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a disinfectant.
12. A method of killing or suppressing bacteria, yeasts, fungi viruses or spores comprising contacting them with a composition according to a any one of claims 1 to 8.